Ill-effects of charter Joint venture and open sea policies

846. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to send a fact-finding team to study as to what ill-effects the charter, joint venture and open-sea policies of Government would have on the economic status of fishermen of Orissa;

(b) whether non-official experts and social workers are also proposed to be associated with such a team; and

(c) if not, the reasons for ignoring the long-term ill consequences of the open sea policy being enunciated with respect to fishery and marine wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The chartered foreign fishing vessels are requited to operate beyond 24 nautical miles between Nizampatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Paradeep port (Orissa) and the specified area north of Chilka Lake in Orissa is out of bounds for the chartered foreign fishing vessles. Regarding operation of vessels under joint venture also, it is stipulated that these vessels should operate beyond the range of operation of mechanised and non-mechanised boats. Thus, the area of operation of chartered vessels as well as vessels under joint venture would not affect the economic status of fishermen of Orissa and the question of sending any fact finding team for this purpose does not arise.

(c) While formulating the policy on deep sea fishing, Government have taken into consideration the interests of various sections of the fishing industry, the fishery resources availability, conservation of resources etc. Only specialised and resource specific vessels shall be permitted under the various schemes. A high power Committee has also been set up which periodically evaluates the research and conservation measures required for monitoring the fishery resources.

Irrigation projects of the Sixth Five-Year Plan period

847. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the irrigation projects of the Sixth Five Year Plan period was completed in time;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) how many such projects are still in the process; and

(d) the reasons for such spilled over of irrigation projects in the current plan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) 36 major and 159 medium irrigation projects were completed during the sixth plan period. Details of minor irrigation schemes are not maintained at the Centre.

(c) and (d) 181 major and 433 medium projects have spilled over into the Seventh Plan and are under implementation. The reasons for delay in completion include inadequate investigations at the project formulation stage, proliferation of projects, inadequacy of resources, difficulties in land acquisition and change in the scope of the projects.

Price of Vanaspati ghee

848. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of production and sale price of vanaspati ghee per kg. in Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern regions of India, separately;

(b) whether there is any variation in the cost and sale price of vanaspati in different regions; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a)

Region	Average sale price per kg.	Approximate computed cost of production
Northern (Delhi)	Rs. 23.20	Rs. 22.65
Western (Bombay)	Rs. 24.00	Rs. 23.60
Southern (Madras)	Rs. 23.75	Rs. 23.35
Eastern (Calcutta)	Rs. 24.40	Rs. 23.65

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for variation in prices in different regions are difference in local taxes, freight charges and weighted average cost of the oils used in the manufacture of vanaspati.

Drought assistance to Maharashtra State by Central Government

849. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any basis or criterion has been fixed to determine the amount of drought assistance to be given to the States by the Central Government;

(b) whether any assistance has been given to Maharashtra State in response to their demand to meet the serious problem in their State;

(c) whether Government considers the amount sanctioned adequate enough keeping in view of the enormity of the problem; and

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal to increase the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The policy for financing relief expenditure is based on the recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission and Government decisions thereon. Though the State Governments are primarily responsible for financing of relief, the Central Government supplements their efforts if necessary. As recommended by the 8th Finance Commission, an amount of Rs. 240.75 crores per annum is allocated as Marg in Money to the States, of which 50 per cent is contributed by the Central Government. The State Governments provide the balance 50 per cent in their budgets. On the occurrence of a natural calamity, the concerned State Government meets the expenditure from its share of margin money and is entitled to draw the Central contribution after exhausting its own share. If the expenditure requirements of a State exceeds the total margin money, it may seek assistance from the Centre. On receipt of a memorandum seeking Central assistance, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team is constituted. The Inter-Ministerial Team consisting of experts from different disciplines visits the affected areas to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. The Central Team holds detailed discussions with the State Government officials and also has discussions with the people's representatives in order to make an objective assessment of the situation. On the basis of the field visits, discussions and taking into account the Central norms for various items and plan provisions available with the State Government for various schemes, the Central Team submits a report recommending item-wise ceilings of expenditure. In case